

7 February 1966

Yale's Thong Blasts

CIA's Viet Role

Ex-Viet Aide Fears US Sellout

by Gerald Bruck

Mr. Huynh Sanh Thong, American spokesman for a South Vietnamese nationalist party, and an instructor in Vietnamese at Yale, late last night issued a statement highly critical of the Central Intelligence Agency and its alleged activities in South Vietnam.

Mr. Thong, representative to the United States of the Dai-Viet Nationalist Party, released his statement through the Yale Daily NEWS.

The full text of the statement appears on page two.

In the lengthy statement, Mr. Thong accuses Deputy Ambassador William Porter and Senior Liaison officer Edward Lansdale of leading the CIA in "the largest operation in its history" aimed at a rapid compromise at the expense of South Vietnamese Nationalism.

The statement reads in part: "As the CIA inches ever closer to Communists in a frenzied search for 'peace' before

the next American elections, Vietnamese nationalists, caught once again between Communism and Western hostility or incomprehension, are further driven into their 40-year impasse."

Urges Continued US Presence

"If (the US administration) is in a hurry for a quick solution," said Mr. Thong in an interview last night, "it will be a disaster." He endorsed General Maxwell Taylor's statement that "what we need in Vietnam is Pilgrim perseverance," and suggested the continuation of a heavy ground war against the Viet Cong, and of bombing raids against North Vietnam "as long as military targets are hit hard and not civilian targets."

Mr. Thong said that the continued American military presence was necessary to permit the emergence of a nationalist government.

'A Nationalist Way Out'

"A large percentage of Vietnamese," he said, "including many among the communist forces, are looking for a nationalist way out, a decent government to which they can rally. They are not going to surrender to a CIA-dominated government."

"They call us ultra-nationalists and right-wingers simply because we don't want to become their (the CIA's) Asians. We want to work with the US, but not for the CIA," said the Yale instructor.

Background

Mr. Thong was born in Vietnam in 1926. He came to the US in 1948 to study at the University of Ohio, and graduated from there in 1951. He later moved to Washington, D. C., where he taught Vietnamese at the State Department and studied international relations at Georgetown University.

It was in 1951 that he met Diem, later to become president of South Vietnam. He served Diem as a "general advisor" at that time.

"But," he says, "I got to know him too well. After listening to his six-hour marathon monologues, I realized that he



A.L.

HUYNH SANH THONG
'Nationalism is Being Betrayed'

Continued